

WITH THE FARMERS

By Prof. W. F. MASSEY

Friday, September 12, 1913.



The North Carolina Farmers' Convention. Down in the Old North State there has been a wonderful awakening among the farmers for better farming. I remember when four of us, with a president, attended the College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts at Raleigh in 1888, it would have been hard for the most optimistic man among us to have foreseen what twenty-four years have developed. At that time, the older colleges of the State and the university seemed to be jealous of us, and feared that we would be duplicating their work, and attracting students because of extra cheapness.

But the North Carolina College has stuck to its work and has been purely a technical institution. Twenty-four years ago it was hard to induce the farmers to send their sons there to study agriculture. They had then no conception what agricultural education meant, and thought that a boy could learn farming behind a mule, and failed to realize that agriculture is an art or profession that places it among the most learned of professions. These things have changed. The farmers' institutes, the farm papers and the demonstration work have all of them been stirring up the farmers, and for a number of years past there has been an annual convention of farmers at the Agricultural and Mechanical College. At first about seventy-five to 100 would come, and when these went home others got interested. Now the annual convention has grown larger and the interest greater.

I have just come from the convention, which was held in the week ending August 20. More than 800 enthusiastic farmers were there, and not only the speeches received attention, but the work on the college farm and the various demonstrations of stock judging, etc., attracted all of the attendants. I talked a few minutes to the great assemblage on Wednesday night, and was received by my old friends there with the most cordiality, and more flattering things said than I probably merited. One thing that surprised me was the many who said that they are reading what I write in the Times-Dispatch. For I had not realized how the paper has spread among the North Carolina farmers and business men. This makes me all the more certain that I can reach many farmers in North Carolina as well as in Virginia through the columns. And it was rather pleasant to have men say that they considered these columns paid them for the price of the paper. Farm topics in a daily paper, in which one tries to tell what a farmer wants to know, and a new feature in a daily paper, and doubtless we will have imitators elsewhere.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the farmer readers of this paper, both in Virginia and elsewhere, for the interest they are taking in the work, and the way they are sending in their letters. Many questions come to me which concern only the writer, and these I will reply to by mail if a stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. For I want to know what the farmer everywhere, and I have letters from men in New York and elsewhere in the North who have seen the paper, write for information about Virginia and Virginia lands.

I was certain in the beginning that if this feature of the Times-Dispatch grew in interest it would show that the farmers want it, and the fact that it is growing in interest to them shows that the innovation is going to prove a success. So much for the side of the farm talk. While I have been away a few days the cotton has been accumulating and I will give every one attention as fast as possible, but I have to keep ahead of the printer, and it is never possible, as some ask to get a reply in the next day's issue. It will usually be nearer a week.

Red Leaf Blight of Cotton. I am sending you a leaf of cotton which would like to know what disease has attacked it. The leaves turn in this way and the plant dies. There is no fungus disease on the cotton, but the red leaf blight is the result of poor nutrition, a lack of plant food in the soil. This same appearance, which many call red rust, is caused by the red mite or spider in droughty weather. But you trouble comes from lack of plant food for the crop. When it first appears it can be checked by applying nitrate of soda along the rows. If you always have a winter cover of crimson clover to turn under and use phosphate liberally, you will never be troubled with the red leaf blight.

Cotton Anthracnose. I am sending you some cotton plants on which many bolls are damaged by some disease. What is it? It is anthracnose, and it is carried by seed from a diseased field. The only thing to do is to avoid seed from an infested field. **Why the Cantaloupes Failed.** Sussex County: "I had a small piece of moist land planted in Emerald Gem cantaloupes, which grew well and had a quantity of beautiful melons on the vines. I noticed a gray insect that covered the under side of the leaves, and they turned yellow and withered. I sowed plaster on the vines, and all of them seemed parched up in a few days. Did the plaster kill them? The melons were not sweet at all, but tasted almost like cucumbers. What does the soil need to make sweet melons?" After giving my correspondent a personal reply I have examined every melon very closely. The main cause of the lack of sweetness was the soil in which they were planted. You say they were in a piece of moist land. I suppose this means bottom land, and on most low land no cantaloupes will ever be sweet, though in other lands the lack of sweetness may be inherent to the variety, for I have always found in our climate that the big Montreal Market melon that has a great reputation in Canada always fails to grow sweet, though it grows as large as in Canada. But the main fault is apt to be in the soil. Where I live, the cantaloupe crop is a very large interest, and in my county of Wisconsin, Md., there were this season probably 2,000 acres in cantaloupes grown on dry sandy soil as a rule, and as a rule very sweet. On my own ground I planted my melons this year in a heavier soil than usual, and I had, as you had, a fine lot of handsome melons not fit to eat. On another part of my land that is quite sandy I have

grown a number of varieties and all sweet. Now as to the insect. I think that if you had looked a little closer with a magnifying glass, you would have found that while there was a grayish web-like formation, the insect was not gray, but a bright scarlet, hardly large enough to be seen by the naked eye, the red mite or red spider, some call it. This insect is encouraged by droughty conditions, and spraying with soapuds from the wash almost daily is the best remedy. The plaster did no harm and no good, and in addition to the spider, it is probably the leaf rust that attacked them. There is a larger insect that lays eggs that cause what are called Pickle worms that bore into half-grown melons and cucumbers and spoil them. This is a very common trouble south in Virginia, and makes cantaloupes very uncertain in the lower south. The only preventive is spraying with arsenicals like lead arsenate several times after the first blooming of the plants. Cantaloupes will always be sweeter grown on dry sandy soil, and the same is true of the watermelon. I have had good melons on bottom land in Virginia where the floods had deposited a thick layer of sand, but on moist clay bottom lands you can never grow the best cantaloupes or watermelons.

Sundry Questions. Buckingham County: "I have seven acres in peas that are fairly good, but no fertilizer was put on them. The spring plowing was rather a poor job, and I want to follow the peas with wheat, and have no disk. I thought I would use a fertilizer. I have a piece of land where one horse. What fertilizer should I use? I am thinking of mixing 200 pounds of acid phosphate and 200 pounds of lime as a fertilizer. How much of each should I use? I put on the fertilizer with the drill when sowing the wheat? A young farmer here, who does not think much of peas, and does think he knows more than you do, proposes to sow the wheat, I plowing half the seed and half the fertilizer, and the other half the seed and half the fertilizer, one horse and I another, and he using only 200 pounds of acid phosphate. What do you think of such a proposition? Have also two acres in corn on which some bone meal, some 2-8-2 fertilizer and a little manure were used, and want to seed it to timothy and winter wheat. How much fertilizer should I use? I am using sawdust eighteen years old and pretty rotten, as bedding and think it great stuff to hold the urine. Some of the men here, but being rotten may help. I appreciate what you say in the Times-Dispatch and only wish I could have had it forty years ago."

Much of what my correspondent writes in a long letter is of merely personal interest, and would have a reply by mail had he sent a stamped envelope. You propose to mix acid phosphate and lime as a fertilizer. Don't do it. The lime will revert the phosphoric acid and make it less available, and 200 pounds of acid phosphate is a small application for wheat. If you have read what I have been writing you will see that I have more than once tried to show that we do not use lime as a fertilizer, but as a means for sweetening the soil for the better success of the legume and the improvement of the nitrication of organic matter in the soil. Four hundred pounds an acre of the acid phosphate will be far better than 200 pounds of lime. Your young farmer may know a great deal, but doubtless, like all others engaged in the cultivation of the soil, has a great deal yet to learn, and there would be more hope for such a man if he did not imagine that he knows so much. I suppose, though you do not say so, that the idea is to divide the crop equally. That is a business matter that I cannot undertake to settle for you. If the spring plowing for the peas was poorly done it would be better to plow the pea stubble deeper with a good two-horse team, and then harrow and trawl it and get it well settled before sowing the wheat. Using acid phosphate alone, you can put it in with the drill attachment. One-horse farming is necessarily poor farming as a rule. Any man of energy and character can get at least two horses. At the close of the Civil War I suppose I was as poor as any man with a gray suit on his back. I had nothing, in fact. But I rented a farm and went in debt for two horses, and some implements, and made good, and was out of debt at the end of the year, and I believe that any young man of energy and character who will use his brains and realize how little he knows, and therefore will study hard, can do as well. I have little patience with men, especially young men, who imagine that they know all about farming. None of us do, and as I have been saying, the poorest farmers to be found, for they know not learned how little they really know, and are simply standing still while the progress of improved farming is going on all around them. A man who does not read farm papers does not attend farmers' institutes and who will tell you frankly that farming does not pay. Their kind never did, and never will. Use on the grass 300 pounds of cotton seed meal and 200 pounds of acid phosphate.

Japan Clover. Albemarle County: "I enclose a plant of a clover which is coming all over my place. I had supposed that it is Japan clover, but I understand that this is red clover. It has a yellow bloom, while the roots have many nodules, and I suppose it is a nitrogen fixer. What is it, and what is its value, and what it inoculate the land for alfalfa? I thank you for the help I find in your columns in the Times-Dispatch. I am a beginner in farming and have gotten many valuable suggestions from your paper. The plant is doubtless what is called Japan clover. There are many leguminous plants that are commonly called clover that are not properly so called. The true clover belongs to the Genus Trifolium. Your plant is Lespedeza striata. It is a legume and a nitrogen fixer, and is a very valuable plant to make pasture on waste lands and rough hills where hardly anything else will grow. It is a tender annual, and dies with the first frost, but in a climate where the summer is long enough it leaves plenty of seed for the next spring, and in this way has spread over a large part of the country. But north of central Virginia it will fail to ripen seed, and it will run out by broomseed. I sowed it once for pasture on a rocky hillside in Albemarle that was covered with broomseed, and too rocky to plow. In one season it has taken possession and ran out the broomseed. In the far South it is a valuable hay plant, but does not grow tall enough here for hay. Its chief value is as a pasture on rough land. Its feeding value is high, and while it is hardly the plant to take into a rotation it will certainly improve the summer pasture. I hardly think that it will inoculate the soil for alfalfa.

NEWSPAPER MAN IS BADLY WOUNDED

W. F. Gregory Knocked Down by Automobile, Stunned and Bruised.

OFFICER EXPECTED TO DIE

Falls Between Two Moving Cars and Probably Is Fatally Hurt.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) Norfolk, Va., September 11.—W. F. Gregory, of the Virginian-Pilot, narrowly escaped death or serious injury shortly before noon to-day, when an automobile owned by Joseph L. Young, of Washington, which was being cranked up at Main and Granby Streets, started off of its own accord, knocked Mr. Gregory to the ground, stunning and bruising him.

According to a report turned into police headquarters by Officer Jacobson, the automobile, driven by Mr. Young, had been stopped at the corner of Granby and Main Streets, because of the congested traffic. When the other vehicles had gotten under way, Mr. Young got out and started to crank his machine. Just as he did so Mr. Gregory, who was crossing the street, stepped directly in front of the car, which started off without being able to stop it. Both Mr. Young and Mr. Gregory attempted to stop the car, but the latter was knocked beneath the front of the machine. Two women, who were in the car at the time, were unable to stop it. B. H. Beasley, who happened to be passing at the time, jumped into the car and shut off the engine. The front wheels of the machine were lifted from the ground by the impact, and Mr. Gregory's neck and shoulder, and it was found that he was painfully, though not seriously, injured.

He was sent immediately to the Protestant Hospital, where it was said this morning that Special Officer Franklin has just a fighting chance for his life.

With his left side partially paralyzed as the result of injuries received yesterday afternoon while placing a trespasser under arrest, Special Officer W. Franklin, of the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, is in a critical condition at St. Vincent's Hospital. It was said at the hospital this morning that Special Officer Franklin has just a fighting chance for his life.

Officer Franklin had boarded a freight train to arrest Joseph Proctor, colored, who was riding on one of the cars. As the train crossed Lehigh Avenue, Officer Franklin lost his balance and was thrown between two of the cars. He was battered and bruised and dragged for several feet before he managed to pull himself up, but was still in the Proctor under arrest. After getting Proctor off the train, Officer Franklin took him to the police telephone box near the old high school and phoned for the patrol wagon from the Second Precinct Police Station. He then handcuffed Proctor to the iron fence, which was around the high school lot, and fell to the ground, unable to get up. Officer Franklin was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital by the patrol wagon upon its arrival, and Proctor was locked up on a charge of trespassing. In the Police Court this morning the charge against Proctor was continued for ten days to await the outcome of Officer Franklin's injuries.

Dinner to Senator Martin. The conference between the members of the executive committee of the Norfolk Chamber of Commerce and United States Senator Thomas S. Martin, to be held because of the expressed desire of the former to discuss the attitude of the Senate toward the continued improvement of this port, will take place at the Virginia Club to-morrow evening at a dinner to be given by the Senator by the executive committee. Arrangements are being made to-day for the dinner, which is to begin at 7 o'clock. Senator Martin, who is here, has expressed his belief that the big new drydock which the Navy Department contemplates constructing on this coast will be located at Norfolk, and also that the Norfolk Navy-Yard will be fitted up for the purpose. The special design of the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce, however, is to endeavor to ascertain from Senator Martin what he thinks the attitude of the Senate will be toward making further appropriations for the improvement of this port. It having been said that the policy of the government may be hereafter to do this only after a port shall have done something toward procuring municipal docks.

Practice of Fleet. The Atlantic battleship fleet is now in the midst of its early fall maneuvers and target practice and manoeuvres on the Southern drill grounds. The ships were yesterday and again to-day, heavy target firing was heard on the coast, but that which was heard in Norfolk last night and the night before came from the big guns at Fort Monroe, which are still engaging in nightly target practice on the bay. President Wilson and Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels are expected to observe battle fleet manoeuvres on the Southern drill grounds from the yacht Mayflower October 18. The President and Secretary Daniels will leave Washington on the Mayflower October 17.

George Lanz, the well-known German real estate man, of giant size, who has had offices in the Royster Building, was to-day absent from the city, and Mrs. Lanz, in much distress appealed to the authorities in an effort to find some trace of her husband, whom she has not seen or heard from since Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Lanz have been residing in the Stockley Apartments, in Chautau. Mrs. Lanz was to-day in charge of her husband's office. She gave out a statement, in which she said her husband had not been at home since Tuesday, and from his conversations just before his departure she rather expected he had gone to Canada.

Wreck Sold for \$800. The wreck of the six-masted Boston schooner George W. Wells, was sold on the Ocracoke beach yesterday for \$800. Captain J. H. York, Mate Gus Green and the female relatives of Captain York, who remained at Ocracoke on the rest of those saved from the Wells in the severe storm of September 3 were brought to Norfolk on the revenue cutter Onondaga, were expected to start North from Ocracoke to-day.

DIVORCED WIFE ON TRIAL FOR SLAYING SUCCESSOR

Millen, Ga., September 11.—Mrs. Edna J. Godbee was placed on trial here to-day for the murder of Mrs. Florence Godbee, wife of the defendant's divorced husband. Both Mrs. Florence Godbee and her husband, W. S. Godbee, were shot to death by the divorced woman several weeks ago. An indictment for the murder of Godbee has also been returned against her.

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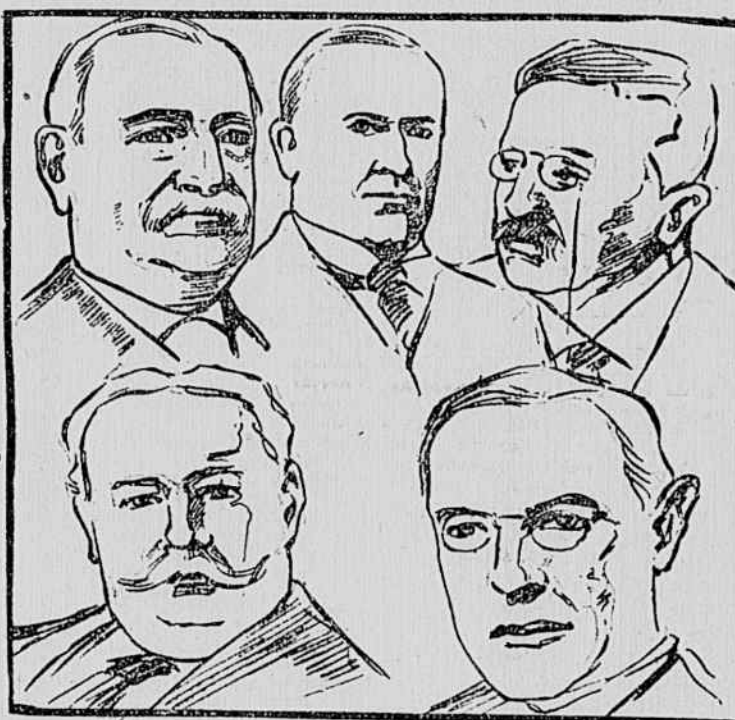
Ten of the titles in the Catalogue are marked by having STARS printed opposite them. These are ten of the CORRECT titles, and so, when you secure a Catalogue, you have only sixty-seven of the correct titles to find for yourself. They are contained in the Catalogue also, but are not marked by stars.

The Answer Book tells you the very pictures which represent these ten starred titles, for ten pages of the Answer Book have circles printed on them, and the ten pictures which go on these pages are the ones that were drawn to represent the ten titles starred in the Catalogue.

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Picture No. 48 Date, September 12th.



What Book Does This Picture Represent? Write Title and Name of Author in Form Below

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PICTURES, 77. Contest began July 27th. Each day a different picture appears in this space. Cut them out. Save them until the last picture appears on October 11th. Don't send in partial lists. Wait until you have all the answers to the 77. Read Rules, Daily Story and Special Announcements in another part of this paper. It will help you win a prize. Extra pictures and coupons of any date that have appeared may be had at 2c. Enter to-day without registering your name. Merely Save Pictures and Coupons as they appear.

A four-page pamphlet giving all details of this contest was printed in this newspaper some time ago. If you did not see it, send a 2-cent stamp or call at the office.



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\$1,200.00

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Second Prize is \$200 in Gold.

Third Prize is \$150 in Gold.

Fourth Prize is \$100 in Gold.

Fifth Prize is \$50 in Gold.

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Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Prizes are \$25 each in Gold.

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Twenty-first to Fiftieth Prizes are \$5.00 each in Gold.

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